

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02  
ACDA-12 IO-14 L-03 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02  
DOE-11 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00 /128 R

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APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON  
EUR:JDOBBINS (SUBSTANCE)  
ARA/ECA:BBOUTON (SUBSTANCE)  
-----110868 110043Z /72

O 102244Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, US, PK, FR, GW, BR, IN, MNUC

SUBJECT: JAN. 10 PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF THAT PORTION OF NOON PRESS BRIEF-  
ING ON JAN. 10 RELATING TO NUCLEAR MATTERS:

Q: HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S INTENT-  
ION TO HAVE SOME SAFEGUARDS ON THE NUCLEAR DEAL WITH PAKI-  
STAN, AND IN THE REACTOR FIELD, ANY CONFIRMATION OR REACT-  
ION OF INDIA'S INTENTION. IT WAS REPORTED BY THE BRITISH  
PRIME MINISTER TO ALLOW ON-SIGHT INSPECTION?

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A: THERE ARE TWO THINGS HERE. FIRST, INsofar AS THE NEWS  
REPORTS WE SAW ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT FRANCE IS SEEKING  
MODIFICATIONS IN ITS ARRANGEMENTS WITH PAKISTAN ON TRANS-  
FERRING A NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING FACILITY, THAT QUESTION,  
WE HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS  
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THIS PROPOSED TRANSFER OR ANY  
POSSIBILITY OF CHANGES, PER SE. IT IS A CONTRACT BETWEEN

THE FRENCH AND THE PAKISTANIS. WE ARE, OF COURSE, ON RECORD ON THE QUESTION OF THE TRANSFER OF SENSITIVE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND THE KIND OF SAFEGUARDS AND RESTRICTIONS THAT WE SUPPORT, AND THEREFORE, WE NATURALLY WELCOMED ANY STEPS WHICH MIGHT REDUCE PROLIFERATION RISKS. BUT BEYOND THAT, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON THIS BECAUSE IT IS THE GENERAL FEELING AS OF THIS MORNING, THAT WE DON'T HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF DETAIL ABOUT THIS.

Q: A GENERAL IDEA OF IT?

A: WE HAVE A GENERAL IDEA, AND IT REALLY DOESN'T GO MUCH BEYOND WHAT YOU'VE SEEN.

Q: WE WOULD PRESUME THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING GAVE THE PRESIDENT WHATEVER IDEA WE HAVE, BUT CAN YOU BE OF ANY HELP ON WHAT GISCARD HAD TO SAY ABOUT THIS?

A: YES, TWO THINGS ON IT: INSOFAR AS WHAT THE TWO MEN MAY HAVE SAID TO EACH OTHER, I WOULD REALLY HAVE TO TAKE YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND ASK FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT MAY HAVE BEEN PASSED BETWEEN THOSE TWO MEN.

WERE WE AWARE -- WHICH IS A DIFFERENT QUESTION WHICH I CAN AT LEAST HELP YOU ON -- OF THE FRENCH DECISION AS HAS COME OUT IN THE STORIES WE'VE SEEN? YES, THE ANSWER IS, IN A UNCLASSIFIED

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GENERAL WAY, WE WERE. MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION AS TO HOW AND WHERE, I WOULD REFER YOU --

Q: LET ME TRY THIS ONE THING: SINCE THE TRIP OR BEFORE THE TRIP?

- -

A: I DON'T HAVE THAT. I WAS JUST TRYING TO THINK IF I KNEW BEYOND THIS, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO PULL IT OUT OF MY HEAD.

Q: HODDING, ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS GOING TO WRITE THE COLD, BLUNT LETTER THAT WAS REFERRED TO INADVERTENTLY IN THE MICROPHONE THING? HAS THAT COLD, BLUNT LETTER BEEN SENT?

A: I DON'T KNOW. THAT'S SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO. ON THAT INDIAN QUESTION, THERE IS NOT A GREAT DEAL OF SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT THAT I CAN OFFER ON WHAT APPARENTLY HAS COME OUT OF THE CALLAGHAN-DESAI TALKS. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, DESAI TOLD CALLAGHAN THAT HE WOULD MOVE ON SAFEGUARDS ON THREE CONDITIONS. THEY ARE, IF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY IS SIGNED; IF THE NUCLEAR POWERS AGREE TO

REDUCE THEIR STOCKPILES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS; AND A COMMITMENT OF SOME SORT IS REACHED TOWARD THE EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF THESE WEAPONS. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS SAID THAT HE'S ASKING ONLY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES TO MEET THESE PARTICULAR CONDITIONS.

Q: THE LAST TWO?

A: YES, SO THAT THIS IS THE BEST -- YES, RIGHT, WE ALREADY INCLUDED SOMEBODY ELSE. THIS IS THE BEST THAT I CAN DO ON THIS. I'LL THROW IN PARENTHETICALLY, FOR A LITTLE BOILERPLATE, THAT WE'RE CONTINUING TO TALK WITH INDIA ON THE SUBJECT, OBVIOUSLY.  
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Q: DO WE UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS?

A: I, FRANKLY, DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING BEYOND THE WORDS THAT I HAVE RIGHT HERE, AND SINCE THIS IS A SECOND-HAND REPORT OF AN AGREEMENT THAT APPARENTLY CAME OUT OF A MEETING BETWEEN TWO PRINCIPALS, NEITHER ONE OF WHOM IS AMERICAN, THAT IS THE BEST I CAN DO.

Q: BUT HODDING, JUST TO PURSUE THE AMERICAN ANGLE IN THIS, THE THIRD POINT STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT MR. DESAI'S LAST, BUT ONE PREVIOUS VISITOR MAY HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT ONE OF HIS FAVORITE THEMES, WHICH IS THE EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF WEAPONS. IT MIGHT BE SUGGESTED, IF YOU WANTED TO BE VERY IMAGINATIVE, THAT THAT VISITOR IS TALKING ABOUT PUTTING THAT COMMITMENT INTO THE PRINCIPLES FOR SALT III. I WONDER IF YOU COULD --

A: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WOULD BE SO.

Q: I DON'T BELIEVE IT WOULD BE SO EITHER, BUT IT'S VERY SUGGESTIVE THAT DESAI COMES UP WITH THAT.

Q: DOESN'T IT MEAN THAT HE IS NOT ABOUT TO STOP?

A: I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSION ON IT.

Q: IF MR. DESAI MAINTAINS THIS POSITION, AS YOU UNDERSTAND IT, WOULD THIS MEET THE U.S. REQUIREMENTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT US TO SELL NUCLEAR FUEL IN THE FUTURE TO INDIA?

A: I AM NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO OFFER ANY MORE SUB-  
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STANTIVE COMMENT ON THE INDIAN POSITION OR THE EFFECT OF  
THAT POSITION ON OUR OWN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM  
ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE. I MAY ON ANOTHER DAY, BUT I AM NOT  
TODAY.

Q: HODDING, WHAT IS IT DESAI SAYS HE WILL DO IF THESE  
THREE CONDITIONS ARE MET?

A: HE WOULD MOVE ON SAFEGUARDS, I.E. ACCEPT THEM, I  
ASSUME.

Q: WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THE REALISTIC OUTLOOK FOR THOSE  
THREE CONDITIONS?

A: NO.

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## Message Attributes

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